



CITY OF FRESNO

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Don't Be A Turkey – Scrape It, Don't Grind It**

**~Keep your sewer pipes clean by properly disposing of fats, oils and greases  
this Holiday season~**

**FRESNO, CA (November 22, 2005)** – Deep fried turkey, creamy gravy, glazed ham and buttery sweet potatoes are favorites for holiday meals, but pouring the remains of these favorites down the drain can cause sewer overflows and increase the cost to safely treat wastewater.

Even the smallest amount of fat, oil or grease will solidify and stick to sewer pipes. This sticky film catches food and other solid debris washed down the sewer lines. Over time, the debris builds up until the sewer pipe is completely blocked and sewage backs up.

“The Holidays pose a particular challenge to keeping our City’s sewer pipes debris-free,” Rosa Lau-Staggs of the Wastewater Management Division said. “Homeowners need to remember to scrape all of the food remaining on plates after meals into the trash instead of putting it down the drain.”

To avoid sewer blockages and increased treatment costs, the Wastewater Management Division has released recommendations to follow during the holiday season. The City recommends pouring drippings and kitchen greases into a large jar and disposing of them in the trash. In addition, avoid putting leftover food down the garbage disposal whenever possible. Any waste that can be thrown in the garbage should always be put in the garbage.

Remember, “Scrape It, Don't Grind It,” and enjoy a safe and joyous Holiday Season.

For more information, please see the attached list of “How to Help” for both residents and the food service industry or go to [www.fresnowastewater.org](http://www.fresnowastewater.org).

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